

October 28, 2004

Dr. Lester Crawford
Acting Director
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Mail Stop HF-1
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Crawford:

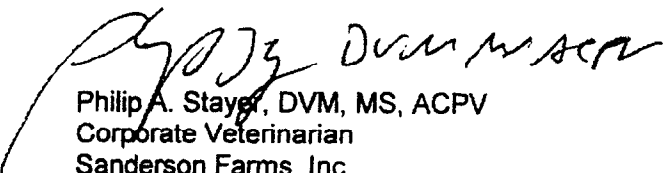
This letter is my belated response to the ongoing uncertainty of Baytril's use in poultry. I am a board certified poultry veterinarian employed by one of the larger poultry integrators in the United States. I have obvious professional interest in maintaining efficacious therapies for my patients, but I also have personal human health concerns as a father of five small children. I do not want to violate my veterinary oath by suffering animals unnecessarily, and I do not want to put my children at risk of any untreatable bacterial infection.

With this being said, I have tried to stay abreast of the proceedings concerning Baytril's use in poultry. It appears to me that scientific facts are being overlooked in favor of some activists' agenda. The decision to remove Baytril at this time would demonstrate the power of political action over science. One truly efficacious intervention would be removed from veterinary care for poultry without any benefit to human health. In fact, more people may be at risk of bacterial contamination from unsuccessfully treated sick animals. I feel that my children are at greater risk of over-prescribed human antibiotics without diagnostic work-up than they are from the responsible use of antibiotics in poultry veterinary medicine.

I ask that you consider the science supporting the continued use of Baytril as a therapeutic antibiotic in poultry and urge you to overturn Judge Davidson's ruling until further review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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cc: Dockets Management Branch, ref# 00N-1571

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